



James Taylor – Solicitor Associate

Specialisms: Financial Services, Professional Negligence & Director/Shareholder Disputes.

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1990-1995	LLB Hons European Law & Languages (French & German), and LPC - UWE, Bristol
July 1997	Admitted as a Solicitor - Litigation specialist
October 2004	Qualified as a Mediator with ADR Group (whilst at Bevans Solicitors)
September 2006	Joined Wards Solicitors to develop litigation profile in South Glos.

Financial Services experience :

- Acted for a couple whose claim on a critical illness policy, on diagnosis of thyroid cancer was refused. Although the Financial Ombudsman Service found against them after a 2-year investigation, I re-examined the case, identified weaknesses in the insurer's position, threatened litigation and secured a six figure out of court settlement plus costs from the insurer (2007/8);
- Acted for a life policy sales team manager whose career was ruined by an unfair reference, litigating and securing a six figure settlement at mediation (2000-2004) ;
- Acted for an IFA in dispute with his network over a suspension of his position, secured removal of suspension and compensation plus costs (2001-2003) ;
- Acted for the Claimants in SEYMOUR v. OCKWELL & CO. AND ZURICH IFA LTD. 2005 EWHC 1137 QB, a FSA-bulletined High Court claim against an IFA and the finance company, securing return of six figure investment with interest and costs. This case established some liability of the finance company (as well as against the IFA) for the product recommendation to the investors and was the subject of national press reports in mainstream and financial press, including Law Society Gazette's "Lawyer in the News" (2005/6) ;
- Overturned a legal expenses insurer's refusal to indemnify a property dispute using the Financial Ombudsman Service securing refund of costs paid privately and future support for the action (2009);
- Advised on negligent financial advice on sale of a mortgage protection policy by a Bank (2009);
- Advised on failure to pay claim on car policy following loss of vehicle (2004);
- Advised on failure to pay claim on life policy for non-disclosure of medical condition (2004);
- Acted for IFA network against individual IFAs owing commission overpayment/clawback debts (2001-2006);
- Acted for bank employee subject of unfairly prejudicial reference in subsequent financial services industry career (2004-2006).